



WENDELL

Franklin County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Wendell is a unique community that combines traditional and alternative lifestyles. It is a small rural town where the spirit of volunteerism and a helping hand sense of community prevail. The town's land area is comprised of approximately 50% state forest or conservation trust acres, resulting in a low population density as 900 residents spread out over 20,000 acres. Wendell is bordered on the north by Bear Mountain, which rises 1,281 feet above sea level.

There are several "cottage industries" in Wendell. Many crafters, artisans, musicians and dancers make their living in this former farming community and the Town Common is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Wendell is named for Oliver Wendell of Boston and was incorporated in 1781.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by Orange on the northeast, New Salem on the southeast, Shutesbury on the south, Leverett on the southwest, Montague on the west, and Erving on the north. Wendell is about 48 miles east of Greenfield; 84 miles northwest of Boston; 30 miles south of Brattleboro, Vermont; and 175 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 32.22 sq. miles

Land Area: 32.00 sq. miles

Population: 899

Density: 28 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Tully Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....18.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Millers Falls, Orange

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 544-3395

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1781

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 537

Democrats 151 28.1 % Republicans 31 5.8 % Other parties 4 0.7 % Unenrolled Voters 351 65.4 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Wendell town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	986	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	986	100.0
Male.....	509	51.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	14	1.4
Female.....	477	48.4	Mexican.....	2	0.2
Under 5 years.....	42	4.3	Puerto Rican.....	5	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	68	6.9	Cuban.....	1	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	80	8.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	6	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	90	9.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	972	98.6
20 to 24 years.....	45	4.6	White alone.....	907	92.0
25 to 34 years.....	129	13.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	173	17.5	Total population.....	986	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	206	20.9	In households.....	888	90.1
55 to 59 years.....	68	6.9	Householder.....	378	38.3
60 to 64 years.....	40	4.1	Spouse.....	165	16.7
65 to 74 years.....	24	2.4	Child.....	234	23.7
75 to 84 years.....	9	0.9	Own child under 18 years.....	189	19.2
85 years and over.....	12	1.2	Other relatives.....	25	2.5
Median age (years).....	38.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	13	1.3
18 years and over.....	733	74.3	Nonrelatives.....	86	8.7
Male.....	371	37.6	Unmarried partner.....	52	5.3
Female.....	362	36.7	In group quarters.....	98	9.9
21 years and over.....	695	70.5	Institutionalized population.....	48	4.9
62 years and over.....	71	7.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	50	5.1
65 years and over.....	45	4.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	24	2.4	Total households.....	378	100.0
Female.....	21	2.1	Family households (families).....	225	59.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	102	27.0
One race.....	963	97.7	Married-couple family.....	165	43.7
White.....	912	92.5	With own children under 18 years.....	63	16.7
Black or African American.....	34	3.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	40	10.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	-	-	With own children under 18 years.....	27	7.1
Asian.....	4	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	153	40.5
Asian Indian.....	4	0.4	Householder living alone.....	108	28.6
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	14	3.7
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	112	29.6
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	33	8.7
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.35	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.88	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	439	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	378	86.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	61	13.9
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	34	7.7
Some other race.....	13	1.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	23	2.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.7	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	378	100.0
White.....	930	94.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	320	84.7
Black or African American.....	40	4.1	Renter-occupied housing units.....	58	15.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	6	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.38	(X)
Asian.....	13	1.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.19	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	20	2.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where Wendell is located, are State Route 2 and Interstate Route 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) lines parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion.

Major Highways

The principal highway serving Wendell is State Route 2, which parallels the boundary between Wendell and Erving on the Erving side. U.S. Route 202 is accessible in the neighboring town of Orange.

Rail

Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway.
Contact number: (978) 663-1073.

Bus

Wendell is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), which provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

The Orange Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,000'x 150' and 4,998'x 150'.
Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.